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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 7851**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 539

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 12, 2005

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Accessible Electronic Information Service.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Young R Michael

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
X DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill requires the Talking Books and Braille Division of the State Library to work with the Library of Congress to provide information in an electronic format to blind and disabled persons. The bill creates the accessible electronic information service fund and requires that \$1,334 be transferred monthly to the fund from the surcharge on residential and business telephone lines to provide services to the hearing impaired. This bill appropriates money in the fund continually.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The bill would require the Director of the Talking Books and Braille Division to enter into an agreement with a qualified entity to provide an accessible electronic information service for blind or disabled persons. The bill states that the agreement make maximum use of federal funds, grants or in kind support and secure low cost interstate rates for telecommunications by reimbursement or other means.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Summary:* The bill would require the establishment of the Accessible Electronic Information Service Fund (the Fund). Expenses of administering the Fund will be paid from the Fund. The Treasurer of State would invest money in the fund not needed to meet obligations of the fund in the same manner as public money is invested. The fund would consist of the following revenue sources:

(1) Transfers to the Indiana State Library from fees collected by local exchange telephone companies (LETC) in the state for residential and business phone lines. (The amount of transfer would equal \$1,334 per month or approximately \$16,000 per year.)

- (2) federal funds.
- (3) grants, gifts, bequests, and
- (4) appropriations.

*Background:* Under current law, LETCs impose a monthly surcharge of \$0.05 per month on each residential and business line of their customers to fund and recover costs for developing and providing dual party relay services for the Indiana telephone relay access corporation for the hearing and speech impaired (InTRAC). The InTRAC provides telecommunications devices to hearing and speech impaired persons.

In business year 2002-2003, the InTRAC received \$3.76 M in revenues from the surcharge described above.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Indiana State Library; Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Joel Fishkin, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

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